malarial (*e. g.* Survey No. 6354 in Kotanallur *Pakuthi*), very costly for improvement (*e. g.* Survey No. 4406/26/A in Katiapattanam *Pakuthi*), rocky (*e. g.* Survey No. 2380 in Alur *Pakuthi*) or situated far into the interior of forests (*e. g.* Survey No. 2818 in Tripparappu *Pakuthi*). The Government were therefore confronted with two difficulties ; there was a large demand for land which had not been earmarked and little for those which had been earmarked. It was therefore suggested that the local *Proverthikar*, Tahsildar and the secretaries of the Sambavar Sangham should select the lands. Those lands which the Sambavars had already colonised, *puduvals* and *porambokes* about their colonies, roadside *puduvals* and *porambokes*, *puduval* lands within Municipal limits, etc., should be set apart for building sites, and *puduvals* and *porambokes* in the interior, backwaters not useful otherwise, useless tanks, low lands, swamps, etc., for purposes of cultivation.

Speaking on the methods of colonisation, the Member suggested that Sambavar colonies of 50 to 100 families should be established in a locality, each family having 10 cents of ground for building. If need be, the land required should be acquired by the Government by purchase, the value being recovered from the families in six annual instalments. Grants for the sinking of wells at the rate of Rs. 350 a well should be made, as the sum of Rs. 100 allowed at present was very inadequate. Wages at half rates should also be allowed for earthwork in respect of approach roads to Sambavar villages. The difficulties experienced by the Sambavars related to (i) the system of auction of lands which might be registered on concessional terms (ii) the troubles at the hands of neighbouring land-owners, (iii) survey charges, (iv) fines on encroachments, (v) *taravila*, (vi) stamp duty and (vii) *tadivila*. These difficulties should be removed by the Government. The delay in the disposal of applications for lands was also pointed out and it was suggested that no Tahsildar should keep an application pending for over three months and that in the cases of applications rejected, an endorsement to that effect should be given without insisting on the levy of copying fees. A quarterly statement showing the action taken on applications for registry of land and a list of the remaining applications on which no action was taken together with the reasons therefor should be published. Reports made by the *Proverthikars* on applications for the assignment of lands to members of depressed classes should in the first instance pass through the Protector of Depressed classes, the sketch and *mahazar* in respect of the lands applied for being prepared by the *Proverthikar* in company with the secretary of the Sambavar Sangham.

The other suggestions were (i) certain changes in the organisation of the Sambavar Elevation Committees and (ii) the constitution of Sambavar Land Colonisation Committees. In respect of the former, the Member desired that the committee should be invested with certain powers for the registry of *puduval* lands, that Mr. D. C. Joseph should be removed from that Committee and that the secretaries of the Sambavar Sangham should have powers to appoint the members on the Committee. As regards the latter, it was suggested that there should be one secretary of the Sambavar Sangham in each Division and that the Sambavar Land Colonisation Committee should consist of seven members.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Yesudian, the particular cases you have cited will be carefully enquired into.

2. As regards your general suggestions and requests, they will all be considered.

14. Registry of lands for Cardamom cultivation.

MR. S. P. SULTAN AHMED BADRUDDIN ROWTHER (*Member, Nominated*) represented the difficulties experienced by the cardamom cultivators for want of sufficient land and complained that the rules passed in 1091 regarding the registry of lands for cardamom cultivation went against those passed in 1081 and affected the cardamom cultivators adversly without benefiting the Government or any class of persons. The difficulties of the cardamom ryots arose from the fact that lands now available for cardamom cultivation would be exhausted in a decade and that replantation on the same lands would be possible only after a period of five years during which the ryots could find no means of livelihood on account of the

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prohibition of registry of land under the rules passed in 1096. The orders of the Government sanctioning the sale in auction of cardamom lands purchased by the Government for a normal sum owing to the default of their owners in paying the tax due thereon were not being worked in practice and that the Government had ceased to parcel out lands outside the Cardamom and the Periyar Reserves as they used to do till 1099. To remove the difficulties of the cardamom ryots, more lands for cardamom cultivation should be made available by assigning lands lying outside the Cardamom and the Periyar Reserves and by assigning to the cardamom ryots, on favourable terms, those lands within and outside the reserves which are now made available for assignment to cultivators.

The Member also requested that sites for the location of cardamom stores and the construction of cooly lines be granted to the cardamom cultivators.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Sultan Ahmed Badruddin Rowther, the matters mentioned by you are engaging the attention of the Government.

15. Suggestions regarding assignment of land in Peermade taluk.

MR. P. CHACKO POTHEN (*Member, Peermade taluk*) said that the subjects of Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent had little facilities for the registry of land for purposes of cardamom cultivation and that they would be placed at a great disadvantage if no land in the Cardamom Hills Reserve in the Devicolam Division were to be assigned to them as the result of an order of the Government dated the 22nd October, 1920. He therefore requested that the lands lying within and outside the Cardamom Hills Reserve should be assigned to them for cardamom cultivation.

His next point was the disafforestation of the Urumbikara Reserve and its assignment to cultivators. This reserve was not of any appreciable use to the Government, but if it were assigned, it would not only be the best means of livelihood to the cultivators, but would also be a source of revenue to the State.

The question of assigning land to non-Travancoreans should be seriously considered in view of the increase in the population of Travancore. Preference should be given to applicants who were subjects of the State. The delay in the disposal of applications for registry of land was the subject for complaint. To the Government it resulted in late payment of tax, *tadivila* and *taravila*, and, to the cultivator, it was a source of serious hardship as they were precluded from starting agricultural operations in time. All pending applications for registry of land should be disposed of then and there. No penalty or prohibitory assessment should be imposed for unauthorised occupation of land for purposes of cultivation, but such lands should be assigned to the cultivators themselves.

The assessment on lands under tea cultivation should, in view of the high profits, be enhanced a little, and this would be a source of revenue to the Government without being a burden to the owners of tea estates.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Chacko Pothen, I may tell you at once that the Government are aware that the order dated the 22nd October 1920, which imposed restrictions upon the registry of cardamom lands is a subject of dissatisfaction to the people. Consequently, the question of revising the terms of that order is now under examination.

2. You also took up the question of disafforestation and registry to Travancoreans of the Urumbikkara Reserve. That too has been taken up already and I have decided to go and inspect the place as soon as I possibly can before deciding upon the matter.

3. In regard to the fourth point, namely, revision of tax on lands under tea cultivation, I may say that it is not possible to do anything at the present moment, generally, because of the title deeds granted in respect of the tea lands. In those cases there can be no increased assessment unless and until there is a general revision of assessment throughout the State. So it will not be possible to take up that question at the present moment or earlier than the next settlement.

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